PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

THE TEST

1. Why is there a new state assessment? What happened to the SBAs?
A. There are new Alaska state standards that focus on preparing students for the workplace, technical schools, or college. The SBAs are not aligned to the new Alaska standards.
B. Computer-based assessments allow for a more engaging and challenging testing experience.
C. Computer-based assessments allow for more tools and accommodations for students.
D. Computer skills are a part of ELA, Math, and technology standards.

2. Who has to take the AMP assessment? What other tests are changing?
All students in grades 3-10 must take the AMP assessment. Students will no longer have to take the HSGQE or the Terra Nova. Eleventh graders will have the choice to take the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys.

3. What kind of items will be on the AMP assessment?
AMP items will require deeper thinking and fewer bubbles to fill in. The computerized AMP will use engaging features such as drop-and-drag, plotting points on a graph, or highlighting text.

4. How many items are on the AMP assessment?
There will be between 70-75 items for the ELA and Math subtest. The subtests are grouped into blocks of 25-15-15-15 questions.

5. How long does the AMP assessment take?
There is an estimated time of 2-3 hours for the math subtest and 2-3 hours for the ELA subtest.

SCHEDULE

6. When is the testing window? How does the scheduling work?
The test window is between Monday, March 30th and Friday, May 1st. Districts and schools design their own testing within this window. The following grades must finish their testing according to this schedule:

Week 1	March 30 – April 3	
Week 2	April 6 – 10	Finish grade 3rd and 7th
Week 3	April 13 - 17	Finish grade 4th and 8th
Week 4	April 20 - 24	Finish grade 5th and 9th
Week 5	April 27 – may 1	Finish grade 6th and 10th

7. When do students take makeup tests? For example, can a third-grader take a makeup test at any point prior to May 1?
Students must complete testing by the end of the two-week testing window designated for their grade. This includes all make-up testing.

8. When will the AMP Assessment go from a fixed to adaptive assessment?
AMP will become an adaptive assessment Spring 2017.

TECHNOLOGY
9. What kind of devices will be used?
AMP can be delivered on desktops (Windows, Mac & Linux), laptops, and tablets (Chromebooks and iPads). Each district will determine which device works best for their students. Check with your district testing coordinator for details. A KITE Server must be downloaded on each device that will deliver the assessment and disable all other applications while the assessment is being conducted.

10. How do I help student prepare for taking a test on a computer?
Practice tests for students to learn how to use the computer's tools and technology-enhanced items are now available.

11. We have unreliable Internet, what happens if it goes out during the test?
Some districts and schools will chose to set up a Local Caching System loaded onto a laptop or desktop at the school. This will allow testing to continue if there is internet disruption.

ACCOMODATIONS
12. What kind of tools/ accommodations will be available to students?
There are three kinds of tools/accommodations available:
    A. Universal tools are always available to all students. They include highlighters, on screen sticky notes, and graph paper.
    B. Accessibility tools are available to all students with a documented need, but must be activated by teachers prior to test administration. Examples include auditory calming, audio text, and headphones.
    C. Accommodations are available to students with disabilities and English language learners. These require an IEP, 504 or English learner plan. Examples include braille, scribe, and isolated location.

13. What are the accommodations for students with special needs?
Accommodation information for IEP, 504 and ELL students regarding state assessments can be found in the State of Alaska's *Participation Guidelines*. With the implementation of computer-based testing, there are significant changes and accommodations will look different than in past test administrations.

14. What will small groups look like?

In the past, many students tested in small groups because of other accommodations that required small group administration. One example of this is read-aloud. Since many features are built into the computer-based assessment, like text-to-speech for the read-aloud accommodation, these students can and should be included in their regular classroom group for testing. We will be working with IEP, 504 and ELL staff members to ensure understanding of the new features and communicate information about when testing in a small group is appropriate, which now should be a small number of students.

15. Do we need to update all affected IEPs?

For computer embedded accessibility tools and any other new accommodations that the student will be using, the student's IEP, 504 and/or ELL plan(s) should be updated. For IEPs, staff members do not need to have an additional IEP team meeting if the annual review meeting has already occurred. Please use the IEP amendment process to make necessary accommodation changes including the removal of the small group accommodation.

RESOURCES

16. When will testlets be released?

Starting in January 2015, teachers will have access to short classroom tests that can be used to inform instruction and learning, as well as help students become more familiar with AMP.

17. What resources are available to learn more?

An implementation rubric is available to guide schools in preparing for the AMP implementation. This is available at www.eed.state.ak.us/akassessments. For more information contact your district test coordinator or the Alaska Department of Education AMP project coordinator, kari.quinto@alaska.gov